

AA THE PROBE

VOL. IV, No. 1 PUBLISHED BY THE ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES January, 1977

"Ambulatory Care Center" Reopens

The Allentown Hospital has formally reopened its ground floor outpatient clinics Jan. 3 following a year-long period in which the clinic area was renovated to improve the quality of medical care to the poor and the elderly.

For the past year, the hospital clinics have been held in the east wing and were moved back to the renovated area last month.

"The new clinics, to be called The Allentown Hospital Ambulatory Care Center, are a fine example of how our board of directors is allocating funds to improve the hospital's physical plant," said Orlando M. Bowen, hospital administrator. "It is also an example of our commitment to quality health services for all segments in the community. The clinics are restricted to those who cannot afford their own medical care. This year The Allentown Hospital will allocate \$150,000 to subsidize the cost of ambulatory care service for clinic patients. This amount is above what the hospital collects from patients, Medicare or Medicaid," he added.

Allentown Hospital has operated the outpatient clinics for more than 55 years, offering a variety of medical services to those unable to pay for medical care or a private physician. Eligible patients can receive treatment for common medical ailments or in such specialized areas as Endocrinology, Urology, Cancer care and Diabetes, etc.

According to Dr. Robert Oriel, the physician in charge of the new center, a patient coming to one of the hospital's clinics is assured of excellent medical care. He notes that patients have access to specialists, sophisticated hospital equipment and physicians on call.

To be eligible for a clinic, a patient's income must fall below a certain level. He or she is then "coded," and is charged according to ability to pay.

The Family Planning Clinic, operated in cooperation with Planned Parenthood of Lehigh County, is the only clinic open to the public. The remainder are restricted, according to income levels.

A "workup" or physical examination is completed to determine a patient's needs. If additional treatment is required, the patient may be sent to

(Continued on Page Three)



NEW BOARD MEMBER — Wilber J. Slocum, Executive Vice President of the First National Bank of Allentown, has been named to a seat on the Allentown Hospital Board of Director. See story on page 2.

She'll Be Keeping Cookie Jars Full

An institution will be leaving The Allentown Hospital in June.

Mrs. Verona Schray, supervisor for health services for the past 27 years, will end an association with the hospital that began in 1929. She plans to retire to Maryland's eastern shore where she will live with her eldest daughter in Easton, Md.

It was in the fall of 1929 that Mrs. Schray came from Bangor, Pa., and entered The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing.

Is there a difference between the school in those days and today?

"Like the difference between night and day," Mrs. Schray said recently. In those days there were nightly curfews.

(Continued on Page Six)



THE PROBE

The People Paper of The
Allentown Hospital Association

ADMINISTRATOR
Orlando M. Bowen

EDITOR
David P. Colley

PHOTOGRAPHER
Scott Dornblaser



Administrator's Corner

On February 9th, we will again honor our employees who have given more than ten years of service to The Allentown Hospital. This year, the number to be invited, including the retirees, will be 242. This means that almost one-quarter of our total employees have devoted more than ten years of their lives to the care of the sick and injured from the community which we serve. Mere thanks and a dinner cannot begin to express the appreciation of the Board of Directors and Administration for the devotion which these employees have shown to The Allentown Hospital. This is an extremely fine record and one that we are proud to honor each year at this time. Each of these persons deserves our sincere congratulations and heartfelt thanks for the job they are doing.

Miss DiGirolamo Selected

Diane DiGirolamo, a second year student at The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing, has been selected as the Outstanding Student Nurse for 1976-77. The selection was made Jan. 17 by a panel of four judges. Miss DiGirolamo won out over four other students in the competition.

Board Picks Slocum, OK's Surgical Unit

Wilber J. Slocum, Executive Vice President of the First National Bank of Allentown, has been appointed to the Allentown Hospital Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of the late Leonard P. Pool.

The hospital board took the action at its December meeting. Slocum's appointment fills the last vacated seat and brings the board up to a full complement of 19 members. Slocum's term expires in June 1978.

A native of Millerton, Pa., the 43 year-old Slocum is a resident of 438 Hill Drive, Allentown. He graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1955 and received a Masters Degree at the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. He served in the army from 1956 to 1958 in Germany.

Slocum started with the First National Bank in 1955 and rose from commercial teller to his present post of Executive Vice President. He is also secretary to the board, secretary of the corporation and chairman of the Interest Committee on Assets and Liabilities.

Slocum is married and has two children, Kimberly, 18, and Cynthia, 16.

The board of directors also announced the opening of a Short Term Ambulatory Care unit on the third floor, east wing. The unit will fill space formerly occupied by the Intensive Care Unit which was moved to new quarters on the first floor.

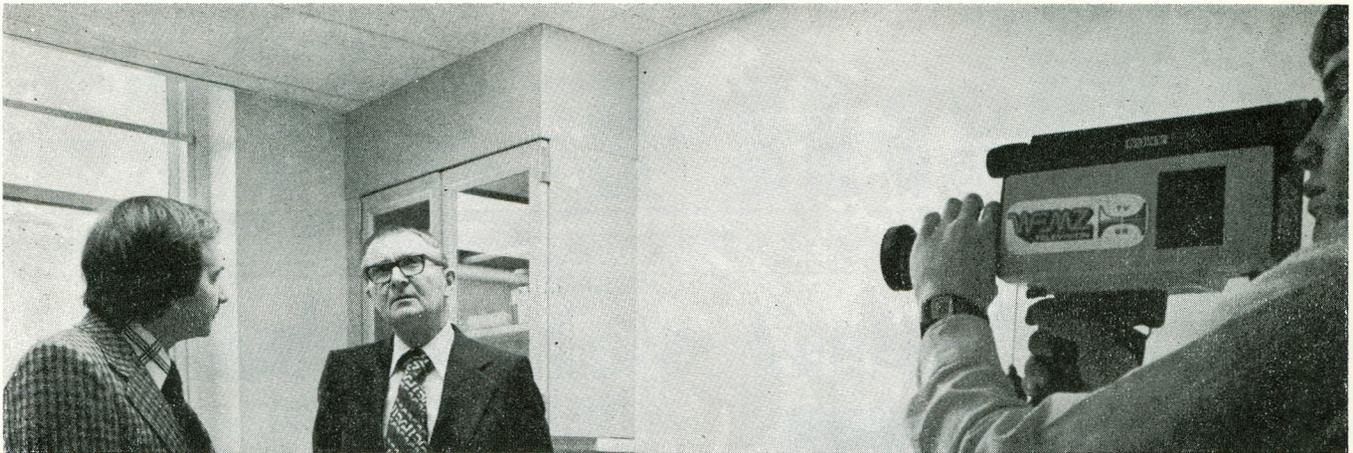
To open Jan. 24, the new unit is designed for outpatients undergoing minor surgery who do not need to be admitted to the hospital for an overnight stay. Patients will be admitted to the short term unit in the morning, undergo surgery and be released in the evening.

Outpatient surgical units are becoming increasingly important in hospitals for such procedures as the removal of minor cysts and tumors, biopsies and gynecological related operations.

The new unit will consolidate existing units in various areas of the hospital. Bed capacity for the unit is 12.

The board also approved an increase in the budget to accommodate six additional employees. Administrator Orlando M. Bowen asked for the hiring of a new pharmacist, three technologists for the microbiology lab and two phlebotomists (persons who draw blood). The technologists and phlebotomists are needed to fill positions in the recently opened microbiology lab at the hospital. The lab was transferred from ASHHC to Allentown Hospital and will include a virology lab, the only one of its kind in the Lehigh Valley region.

New Clinics Open After Renovation



CLINIC OPEN — Administrator Orlando Bowen discusses opening of renovated clinics with WFMZ TV newsman Jim Dougherty while below patients and hospital medical personnel spend their first day in the new area. The clinics opened Jan. 3 after spending a year in Sections A and B in the east wing.

Ambulatory Care Center

(Continued from Page One)

one of 21 clinics where specialists devote a portion of their time each week.

The specialty clinics include Immunology, Pre-Natal, Chest, Gastrointestinal, Endocrinology, Urology, Blood and Cancer, Dermatology, Kidney, Gynecology, Arthritis, Cardiology, Pelvic Tumor, Surgical, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Neurology, Family Planning, Diabetes, Podiatry and Neuro-psychiatric.

According to Lee W. Hawk, Allentown Hospital Controller, cash loss for the clinics in the coming year will amount to \$150,000, double what it was two years ago when it was \$73,479. He attributes much of the loss to higher overhead costs and staffing of the new clinics.

The total number of clinic visits for the fiscal year ending in June was 16,106, almost 2,000 more than the previous year. Seven members of the nursing staff are required on duty in the clinics. Hawk points out that Allentown Hospital maintains most of the community's outpatient clinics.

Dr. Oriel says some important changes and innovations will be included in the new clinics. He says patients will now be scheduled by appointment, as they are in a private physician's office, thus avoiding long waiting periods characteristic of clinic visits in the past. He also says physicians will be responsible for better follow up, keeping tabs on their patients when they are sent to various specialty clinics.

Dr. Oriel also hopes to initiate a patient education system using taped courses that will be played back on a television screen in the clinic area.

It is the atmosphere of the renovated clinic area that is probably the biggest change. Most noteworthy are the well lighted waiting rooms, offices, examination rooms and classroom areas.

"We probably have some of the best facilities of any ambulatory care center in the region," Dr. Oriel says.

New Alert System Installed

The Allentown Hospital Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has installed a Corometrics Alert System which enables doctors and nurses to monitor the condition of expectant mothers from one location without having to visit each of nine labor rooms.

The four-screen unit is connected to the department's bedside fetal monitors which in turn, are attached, via leads, to the mother's body. The monitors record an infant's vital signs prior to birth. The device also records the intensity of uterine activity.

The main function of "ALERT" as the Corometric system is called, is to warn medical personnel of any developing danger in either the mother or infant prior to birth.

With the flick of a button and within seconds, a physician or attending nurse in the labor area can monitor up to nine patients, checking the condition of the infant's heart beat, taking an electrocardiogram and measuring the degree of uterine activity.

"We are much more aware of our patients' problems with the alert system," says Mrs. Joyce Yeakel, labor room supervisor at The Allentown Hospital. She adds that the central system can be crucial in saving time that could affect the baby's or the mother's health. "We've done Caesarian Sections on indications from ALERT," she says.

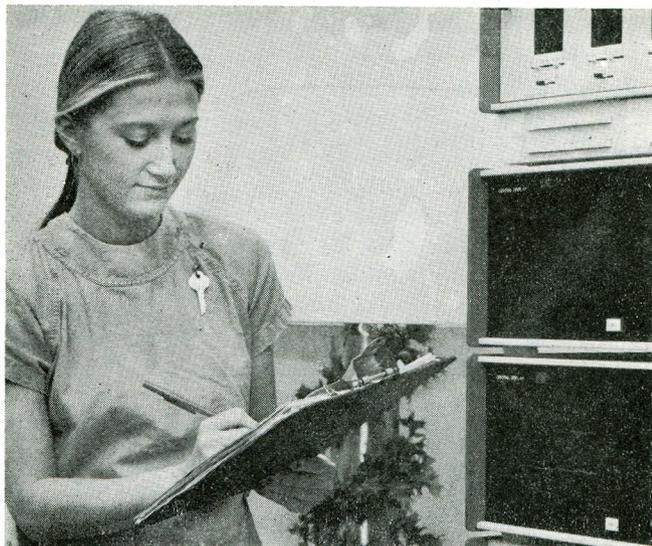
ALERT's four scanner screens show normal heart beat, the variability of heart beat, uterine activity and whether the system is receiving the proper data from the monitors.

Below the screens is a scanner which records the infant's electrocardiogram.

There are three dangers which the ALERT system is designed to pick up: deceleration — a decline in the rate of heart beat; lack of variability in heart beat — indicating the infant's body is not responding to stress; and intense uterine activity — indicating the uterus may rupture, threatening infant and mother. In all cases of danger, ALERT sounds an alarm.

"We believe ALERT has done much to improve obstetrical care at The Allentown Hospital," says Dr. Joseph Miller, chief of the OB-GYN department. "Any sign of fetal distress can be picked up much earlier and thus we avoid severely depressed babies at birth," he said.

The Corometrics Alert System was installed this fall and is now in full operation. The bedside fetal monitors have been in operation for the past seven years. There is no charge for use of either the monitor or the ALERT system.



CHECKS SYSTEM — Lisa Pandolfi, nurse in the Allentown Hospital Labor Area, checks out the new Corometrics Alert System. The system is connected to the nine bedside fetal monitors and warns nurses and physicians of any impending danger for mother and unborn child.

Rape Crisis Plans Training Session

Training sessions for the Rape Crisis Council of Lehigh Valley, Inc. will begin on February 28, 1977 at 12:30 p.m. and March 2, at 7:00 p.m. The two sessions will run simultaneously for eight weeks. All sessions will be held at Allentown Hospital. There is no fee for the training sessions. Any person interested in participating in the training sessions can receive further information by contacting the RCC of LV office number, 437-6611.

The Rape Crisis Council of Lehigh Valley, Inc. is a non-profit organization. Office facilities are located within Allentown Hospital. The program of support service to victims of sexual assault and their families has been functioning for nearly 2½ years.

Important Notice

The qualifying period for part-time employees' benefits has changed. As of December 19, 1976 your eligibility for benefits will be determined as follows:

- You must work at least 1000 hours in each calendar year to qualify for benefits.
- Vacation and sick pay remain the same. Until now your qualifying year either began with your starting date, or your 6-month benefit date. At times the use of two dates was confusing.

We hope the change will make the policy more understandable and easier to administrate. If you have any questions about your part-time benefits, please contact Margaret A. Weider, Director of Personnel.

IS YOUR DOCTOR QUALIFIED?

You've just moved to town and you need a doctor. You ask your boss or the neighbors for a recommendation. But how do you know their choice is a well qualified physician?

You don't. Some people will swear by a doctor. Others will swear at him.

A physician may graduate from medical school, take a year of hospital residency and receive his license to practice from the state. And once established in a practice, there are few restrictions. In the sanctity of his office he can cast broken limbs, deliver babies and perform surgery.

For the layman, even the health care professional, however, there is one way to determine the qualifications of a doctor. Call the local hospital and check his credentials.

In fact, according to Dr. Frederick Fister, director of medical education at The Allentown Hospital and ASHHC, it is more than likely that if a person asks the medical society to recommend a good doctor, the call will be referred to the hospital anyway.

"The hospital is the place where most calls ultimately come," Fister says.

At the Allentown Hospital, for instance, a physician applying for membership on the attending staff must come under intense professional and personal scrutiny before being accepted to practice medicine within the institution. If his practice is questionable, he can be denied staff membership.

When a physician applies for membership, his application must go before the hospital's credentials committee. The committee does a thorough check of his background such as where he went to school, his grades, where he completed his residency, his personal recommendations and whether he is certified to practice in his specialty area. If the physician is not a member of the American Medical Association he must meet the association's requirements for acceptance.

The credentials committee turns the applications over to the hospital medical board which may again question the physician's credentials and finally the application must be approved by the Board of Directors of the hospital.

According to Dr. Fister, once approved for staff membership, the physician must then meet the requirements set by his department. For instance, if the doctor is a surgeon, there are specific regulations limiting him to the procedures for which he is trained. Also, any specialist coming from outside the community must be observed for a year before he is allowed to perform on his own.

Fister also points out that the performance of each staff physician is closely monitored each day by a hospital group called Utilization and Review. This group of four regular nurses checks charts throughout the hospital for cost and quality control. When they feel there is a question they inform the attending physician's department head or the

president of the Allentown Hospital medical staff. Disciplinary action may then be taken if the situation warrants, according to "Due Procedure" outlined in the staff by-laws.

The Utilization Review group will soon become an arm of the Physician Standards Review Organization (PSRO), a federally mandated hospital control group.

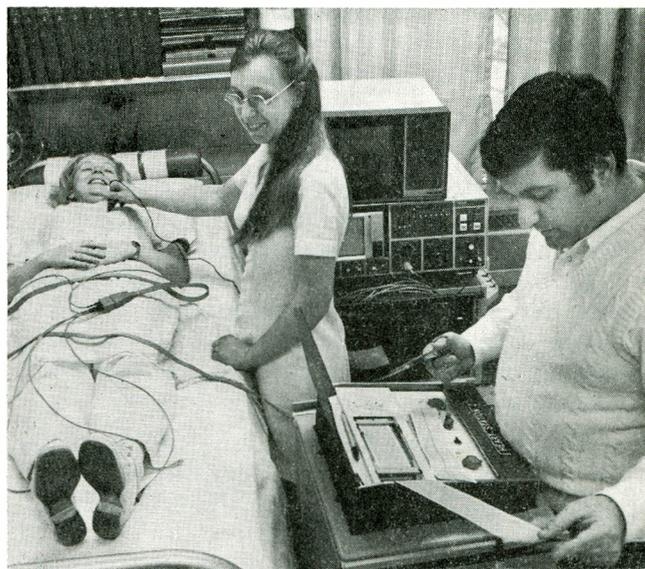
Cases frequently come up for review before the heads of various departments.

"Any questionable management of patients is brought to the attention of the department head," Fister says, and adds that the case is then reviewed by the department head and the attending physician.

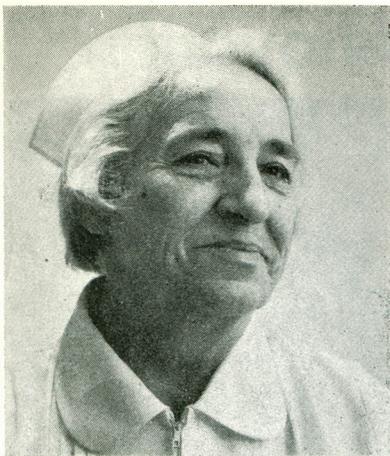
Fister adds that the Pennsylvania Medical Society is establishing a committee of physicians to review cases and establish procedures for monitoring physicians found deficient in their practices. In such cases, the doctor will be notified and can be placed on probation or dismissed from a hospital staff.

To maintain membership in the state medical society, physicians must complete 150 hours in educational requirements every three years. The Lehigh County Medical Society is also establishing a similar committee.

"The activities of every physician on the hospital staff are under continuing review," says Dr. Fister. "If a physician is a member of our hospital staff, you can be sure he is qualified," he adds.



NEW EQUIPMENT — Frank Lowell, heart station director, uses a newly acquired EKG machine while Mrs. Jennifer Pope, assistant chief technician, makes use of new equipment for the heart station's heart Echo Machine. The Echo Machine now has a new screen (top) which enables technicians to have a better "picture" of heart sounds.



Verona Schray

Cookie Jars

(Continued from Page One)

"They were much too strict in my day," she says, but adds that maybe the pendulum has swung too far today.

If there has been change in the nursing school Mrs. Schray notices an even greater change in the practice of medicine.

"The advances in medicine since my days at the nursing school are phenomenal," Mrs. Schray says. "I was in school before penicillin or any of the antibiotics." She recalls that when she was a student they were taught "cupping" and "we were in the day of the temperature stupe." A stupe was a kerosene soaked rag applied to the abdomen to purge a surgical patient of gas.

After graduation from the nursing school, Mrs. Schray married and began raising a family. She has two daughters, Barbara, with whom she will live in Maryland, and Lorraine, of Macungie.

Mrs. Schray recalls that 1932 was the height of the depression and there was no work in nursing. So she graduated Sept. 1, 1932 and was married Sept. 8.

It wasn't until 1937 that she returned to nursing at Allentown Hospital. She started in general duty and from 1938 to 1948 was on private duty. Then she switched to the solution room, making IV solutions and two years later took up her present duties as supervisor of the health office.

"As the health office supervisor I take care of illness or injury of any employees or students," she says. "I do all the routine physicals including physicals for nursing school applicants."

There have been a variety of ailments over the years, from heart attacks to lacerations and even squirrel bites when student nurses have attempted to feed the squirrels in the park. In large part, Mrs. Schray acts as a judge, screening those patients who don't need to see a doctor.

Mrs. Schray is now 65. Her husband died 10 years ago and now she plans to live with her daughter and "I expect to do a lot of swimming, fishing and spend a lot of time on the water."

Her grandson David is looking forward to life with his grandmother. He told her that when she moves in the cookie jar will always be full.

Hospital Chatter

MARRIAGES

Linda Hamm, L & D, married James E. Fleming Dec. 24.

Stephen Sabo, Nurses' residence, married Kathy Gehman, Dec. 4.

ENGAGEMENTS

Denise McClafferty, Lab, to James Stellar of Whitehall.

BIRTHS

Earl Wetzel, boiler room, and wife Patricia had a baby boy, Adam, born Jan. 6.

Cathy Yeager, ICU and husband George had a baby boy, Michael John, Christmas Day.

DEATHS

Wilfredo Rodriguez, Housekeeping aide, infant son died Jan. 6.

Comings -- Goings

COMING

Beechan, Mary	Anesthesia	Anesthetist	Day	PT
Taggart, Vanessa	Dietary	Hot Food		
		Cart Pers.	Day	PT
Stauffer, Debra	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Day	PT
Dorrah, Mark	Purchasing	Clerk-Storeroom	Day	
Geldermann, Deborah	Nursing	Gen Staff ICU	Day	
Eisenhard, Donna	Nursing	LPN T4	Eve	
Odenwelder, Arnette	Nursing	Gen Staff OPD	Eve	
Christman, Elizabeth	Nurses' Residence	Hskg. Aide	Day	
Hiestler, Dorothy	Nurses' Residence	Hostess II	Day	PT
Swank, Robin	Bacteriology	Med. Technician	Day	
DeJoseph, Marianne	Pharmacy	Messenger	Day	PT
Edelman, Hilda	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Day	
Guerrero, Marcelino	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Day	
Pummer, David	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Ngt	
Spaide, Richard	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Eve	PT
Sala, Nancy	Personnel	Clerk II	Day	
Christoff, Beatrice	Fiscal Affairs	Clerk I	Ngt	PT

GOING

Kratzer, Kristea	Pharmacy	Pharmacist	Day	PT
Stahlnecker, Elizabeth	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Day	PT
Fisher, Thelma	Fiscal Affairs	Clerk-Admitting	Ngt	PT
Diehl, Lizzie	Nursing	Nrg. Aide T5	Ngt	
Palko, Judith	Nursing	Gen Staff W3N	Day	
Amey, Karen	Nursing	Dir of Rec		
		Ther W6	Day	
Stimeling, Evelyn	Nursing	Therapy Asst W6	Day	
Weber, Anna	Nursing	Nrg Aide Nursery	Day	PT
Pfeil, Lynda	Nursing	Gen Staff L&D	Day	PT
Allebach, Ada	O.R.	Workroom Aide	Day	
Wimmer, Arlene	Nurses' Residence	Hskg. Aide	Day	
Sassaman, Ellis	X-ray	Orderly	Day	PT
Brown, Rudolph	Pharmacy	Messenger	Day	PT
Kleckner, Howard	Pharmacy	Messenger	Day	PT
Bishop, Kathleen	Home Care	Visiting Nurse	Day	PT
Burley, Anna	Home Care	Aide	Day	PT
Danenhower, Ruth	Home Care	Aide	Day	PT
Ritter, Veronica	Home Care	Home Health Aide	Day	PT
Emmick, Laura	Cancer Research	Clerk II	Day	PT
Hock, Mary	Medical Records	Technician	Day	
Rader, Edward	Medical Records	Chart Files Clk.	Day	
Deetz, Gerald	Dietary	Dishmachine Opr.	Day	PT
Moyer, Peter	Housekeeping	Garbage Collector	Day	
Pizzaro, Maria	Housekeeping	Hskg. Aide	Day	
Zanders, Maryjane	Personnel	Clerk III	Day	
Yager, Elizabeth	Nursing	Supervisor OPD	Day	

CHANGING

Lawfer, Lorraine	Nursing Gen Staff W3 to ICU
Moyer, Geraldine	OR Head Nurse to Nursing Head Nurse OPD
Smith, Janet	Clerk II Inservice to Clerk III
Kunusky, Andrew	Housekeeping to Linen Room
Christman, Donna	Nursing Nrg Aide PT to LPN FT
Kuntz, Geraldine	Nursing LPN W3N FT to PT
Butts, Susan	Nursing LPN S4 FT to PT
Heffner, Frances	Nursing Gen Staff Peds Ngt to Day
Cressman, Brenda	Nursing Gen Staff ICU Ngt to Day
O'Hare, Ellen	Nursing Gen Staff ICU Ngt to Day
Schlegel, Jane	Nursing Gen Staff W6 Eve to Head Nurse Day
Green, Donna	OR Tech Day to Eve
Master, Terry	X-ray Orderly FT to PT
Glenn, Frances	Med Records Chart Files Clerk Day PT to FT
Pavlik, Nannette	Med Records Supervisor Day FT to Technician
Peefor, Sandra	Housekeeping Hskg Aid Eve FT to PT